

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2004. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 17 and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tsuzuki in view of Suzuki, Bigio and Aoki (US 5,793,221, newly cited). This 4-way Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

In particular, Aoki is not properly combinable with the other cited art. While Suzuki for example relates to a system for performing brightness correction of a display, Aoki merely discusses testing LCD panels to find defective pixels. There is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion in Aoki of monitoring pixel outputs in order to control backlight operation. Thus, there is no motivation or suggestion in the art of record for using the CCD of Aoki in the device of Suzuki or the like. One of ordinary skill in the art would never have used Aoki's technique for testing LCD panels in the device of Suzuki or the like because such devices and system are entirely unrelated to testing for defective pixels. The arts are unrelated. Hindsight is not permitted.

Thus, the 4-way Section 103(a) combination is fundamentally flawed and incorrect for at least the aforesaid reasons.

The Section 103(a) rejections of claims 10 and 12 are similarly flawed. In particular, one of ordinary skill in the art would never have used Aoki's technique for testing LCD panels in the device of Suzuki or the like because such devices and system are entirely unrelated to testing for defective pixels. The arts are unrelated. Hindsight is not permitted.

YAMAMOTO et al.

Appl. No. 09/752,683

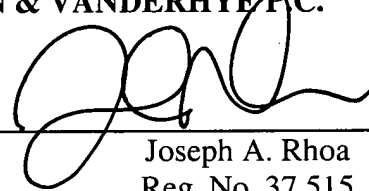
January 3, 2005

All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JAR', is written over a horizontal line.

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